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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,430	09/25/2003	Kyung Chul Woo	P24324	4248

7055 7590 07/24/2006

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EXAMINER

PATEL, RITA RAMESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,430

Applicant(s)

WOO ET AL.

Examiner

Rita R. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings received 9/25/03 are acceptable for examination purposes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

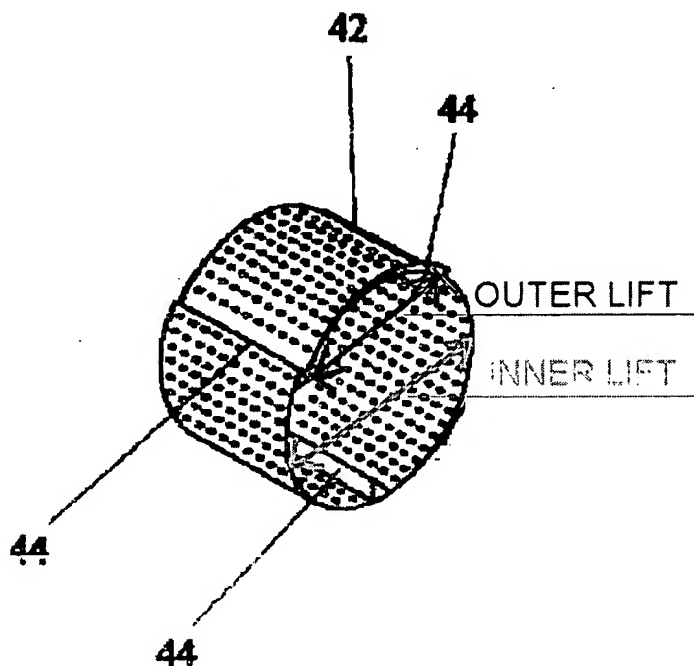
Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reason (PCT Pub. No.: WO00/14322).

Reason teaches a washing machine 2 comprising within it an inner curved side wall 20 and an outer wall referred to as closure means 28. As seen in Figure 5, both side wall 20 and closure means 28 are circumferentially based about a central axis of the drum 12 and are perforated with drainage holes. Closure means 28 has an open top and bottom; such a top and bottom are open in that the top of the wall has perforations which inherently makes it open, moreover, the bottom is open in that the convexity of bottom half of the closure means is without a wall. Also closure means 28 is parallel to the port closure means 18 and faces the multitude of drainage holes located on wall 20. Such walls of Reason reads on applicant's claim for a lift because as the drum rotates, these walls are used to lift articles therein and aid in improving washing functions.

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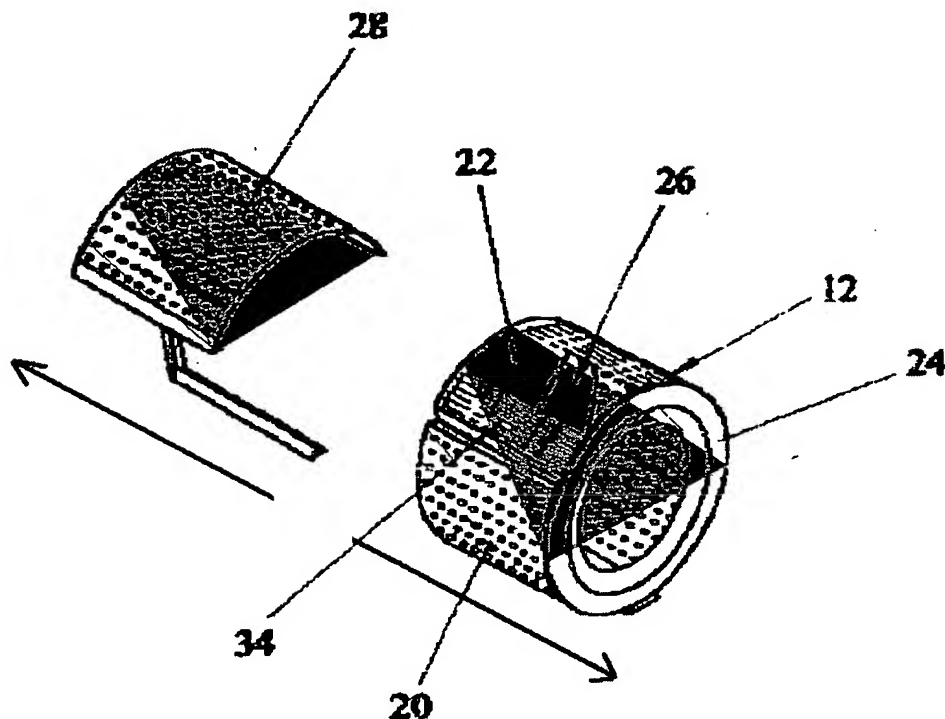
Drum support sleeve 42 is dimensioned to be a sliding fit around the outside of drum 12, and to engage with spacer bars 40 by way of internal ridges 44 in sleeve 42 (col. 5, lines 64-67). Thus, slidably connecting the inner curved side wall 20 and outer closure means 28. By means of support sleeve 42 and internal ridges 44, the inner curved side wall 20 is fully contained within said outer closure means 28 during the rotational cycle of the rotating drum 12. Moreover, as seen in Figure 5, the walls of inner curved side wall 20 extends beyond the boundaries of the closure means 28, thus reading on applicant's claim wherein said inner lift part protrudes through the open top of said outer lift part.

As illustratively shown below, the inner width of the inner curved side wall 20 is greater than the width of closure means 28: (See Figures 5 and 6)



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Also, Reason's so-called inner and outer lifts embody a trapezoidal cross section:



Cross-sectional planes imposed over Reason's inner and outer lifts show that trapezoidal-shaped cross-sections are achieved; two parallel sides are formed, creating a base and two non-parallel sides that are angularly faced inward are also formed. The width of the inner and outer lifts vary along various points, thus when a cross-sectional plane is taken, a wide base and narrow top is formed. Moreover, said inner and outer lift parts have an opposing pair of inclines sides.

Internal ridges 44 on the outer lift part of Reason reads on applicant's claim for a pair of support rails protruding inwardly and that which run lengthwise axially. Support sleeve 42 reads on applicant's claim for an inner lift part resting on said pair of support rails. Support sleeve 42 may be slidably attached thereon to internal ridges 44. Also,

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once the inner and outer lifts of Reason are attached together they are located inside the washing drum 12. Drum 12 is formed from a rear wall 22 and front wall 24.

Extending between the walls 22, 24 are three spacing elements 40; such spacing elements hold the inner-outer lift assembly within the rotatable drum 12 at a space equidistant from the circumferential surface of drum 12 (col. 5, lines 52-54).

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by No et al. herein referred to as "No" (Publication No.: US 2003/0074932 A1).

No teaches a washing machine with a drum 24 and lifters 24 therein, drain holes 130 are located on said lifters. Water flows into the top of the lifters 100 as they dip into the wash water and as the lifters rotate upwards the wash water drops through the drain holes 130; thus reading on applicant's claim for an open top and open bottom thereon the lifter (Paragraph [0053]). Inwardly protruding faces 110 are aligned axially with respect to the drum on the outer lift. The plurality of lifts as shown in Figure 4 are illustratively depicted equidistantly about the inner circumferential drum 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reason as applied to claim 17 above.

Reason teaches a first a second lift, namely inner and outer lifts 20, 28, however, fails to stately teach a third lift. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a duplicity of lifts therein such a washing apparatus to achieve an increased amount of lifting during operation and thereby increased cleaning functions. It is well settled that the mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced. *In re Harza*, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Seagar et al. (US Patent No. 6,578,391) teaches a top loading washing machine with a perforated skin 22 and load guiding flaps 18, 19 therein the drum 1, used for guiding laundry therein during washing. Also, Hendren (US Patent No. 4,971,449) teaches a washing machine with a rotating drum 12 therein, for holding ribs

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16 for lifting articles during washing. The ribs 16 are patterned with apertures 24 for draining liquid there through.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita R. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-8701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RRP

MICHAEL BARR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Barr', is written over the printed name and title.